

***DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND TRANSPORTATION***

DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES



**MONTHLY REPORT
OCTOBER 1999**



Printed on Recycled and Recyclable Paper

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OVERVIEW

Tonnage at a Glance

FACILITY	Oct FY 00	FY 00 Total	Oct FY 99 ^(a)	Oct FY 98 ^(a)
Materials Recycling Facility ^(b)	5,093 Tons	19,124 Tons	5,357 Tons	5,295 Tons
Brunswick Landfill Facility	10,530 Tons	49,923 Tons	14,745 Tons	6,630 Tons ^(c)
American Ash Recycling	3,122 Tons	12,278 Tons	N/A	N/A
Resource Recovery Facility	41,031 Tons ^(d)	168,095Tons ^(d)	37,880 Tons	35,048 Tons
Yard Trim Compost Facility	4,015 Tons	12,576 Tons	3,364 Tons	3,104 Tons

^(a)From previous Monthly Reports

^(b)Outgoing paper, glass, plastics and aluminum and tin cans for FY00. For preceding years, incoming tons.

^(c)The out-of-county transportation and disposal contract started in late October 1998. The total tonnage for October 1998 was 14,377, and went to the Oaks Landfill for the first three weeks of October and to the Brunswick Waste Management Facility, Inc. landfill (6,630 tons) for the remainder of the month.

^(d)RRF tonnages refer to tons burned (processed). Waste shipped from the Transfer Station but not burned is in the pit and is not included in the tonnage presented here. These tonnages are preliminary, with adjustments made in the December and June monthly reports.

Revenue Analysis and Systems Evaluation - With respect to routine activities, during October we fielded an additional 122 calls from individuals or businesses that had questions about the solid waste charge on their tax bill, processed 29 Levy Year 99 solid waste charge appeals, and continued to review all transactions involving changes to the billing data base. We also completed field audits of hauler reports and updated our countywide mass balance spreadsheet calculating the FY1999 Recycling Rate. In connection with the Recycling Rate Calculation, we also compiled data from 251 multi-family property "Annual Recycling Reports" received (of 500 reports requested). These reports were filled-out by property managers and, although they did not include weights, they indicated estimated volumes of recycled material. By making reasonable assumptions about the density of the recyclable materials we calculated associated annual tonnage figures for comparison with hauler-reported tonnages. The results suggested that haulers may be under reporting multi-family recycling tonnages, but to be conservative, we used the hauler-reported recycling tonnages in the recycling calculation. This process also revealed one hauler, which was operating without a license, and, after discussion with the hauler, the

matter was referred to enforcement. We also calibrated the solid waste system benefit charge Rate Model using the countywide waste flows indicated in the completed FY1999 Recycling Rate spreadsheet. Rates are partly based on tonnage flows, so this time-consuming work is necessary in preparation of the FY 2001 budget request now being prepared. In this connection, we also received draft year-end work papers from Finance and began calibrating the fiscal health part of the Rate Model to those results, we assisted staff in developing six-year budget costs projections, and we received and entered into the Rate Model most of the draft FY 2001 through FY 2006 cost projections, and evaluate changing the MRF Access Fee. Also, during October, we familiarized ourselves with the new truck scale data capture software system (Paradigm) now fully operational at the Transfer Station, and we began to set up a routine query screen for extracting accurate monthly scale data from that system for several program purposes. Finally, we substantially completed the FY1998 spreadsheets for the Cost Performance Indexes report. We will complete footnotes and text and present to SWAC in November.

Variable Rate- During October, staff conducted follow-up research with respect to items discussed at the September 30 meeting of the Task Force.

CITIZEN COMMITTEES

Facilities Implementation Group (FIG)- FIG held its second meeting on October 21st. Individuals that had been appointed by Mr. Duncan but not yet approved by the County Council attended, as did one person who was later appointed. In November the Group will hold its first meeting for which all positions are appointed and approved. A facilitator continues to conduct the meeting. The Group reviewed a draft of its stated purpose and definition, as well as general administrative items. The members agreed to meet again in November.

Solid Waste Facilities Master Plan- SCS completed drafts of the Analysis of Facility Traffic and Transportation Demand Management Program in February, and they will be distributed for comment to FIG members when that board is formed. The groundwater monitoring base maps are complete, and monitoring of groundwater and well water continues. An outline of the traffic safety training for facility contractors will be distributed to FIG.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee- SWAC met on October 5 at the Executive Office Building. The committee was briefed on Recycling Outreach Activities, DSWS Website, and the Volunteer Program.

COLLECTIONS

Refuse - October's refuse collections were normal with no disruptions to the scheduled work.

Recycling - We continue to monitor the mixed paper tonnages in Areas 2 and 8. Area 2, which started mixed paper in March 1999, is averaging 12 lbs. per household, and area 8, since it's start up in September 1999, is averaging 9.12 lbs. per household.

Contractor Performance - During the month of October 1999, there were 9 complaints not resolved by the contractors. The county corrected all 9 complaints. The number of complaints received in October 1999 totaled 520. This represents a 27.7 % reduction from October 1998, which had a total of 719 complaints.

Customer Service - For the month of October 1999, over 6,614 incoming calls were handled with over 75 follow-up calls (as a quality control check) by the Customer Service Staff. The Excel system is being integrated into the follow-up call report.

Volunteer Activities - During the month of October, Master Recycler/Composter program volunteers contributed 192 hours of service and reached approximately 6,097 residents. The volunteers handled 457 calls to the Recycling Hotline with additional 435 calls coming into the hotline answering machine. Household Hazardous Waste and telephone books were the leading topics of discussion. The volunteer activities included two Household Hazardous Waste collections at Shady Grove and NIH. Weekend outreach activities included the Harvest Festival, Germantown Oktoberfest and a festival in Garrett Park.

The Volunteer Program officially moved into the Transfer Station on October 1, 1999.

WASTE MINIMIZATION

Drop-off Programs- A new Neighborhood Mulch Preserve was set up at the Colesville Maintenance Depot on Cape May Road, just off New Hampshire Avenue. The site will be open seven days a week, daylight hours only.

Department of Environmental Protection's Home Composting and Source Reduction Activities - Ongoing work on the Website offering information on: Grasscycling Guidelines, which provides colorful, illustrated information on how to mow properly, when to feed your lawn, what kind of fertilizer to use, when and how to water, how to aerate your lawn and treat special problems; the County's Grasscycling Campaign; Environmental Lawn Care; Fall Tips to Help Winterize Your Lawn; Integrated Pest Management: A Common Sense Approach, a downloadable pdf file; Lawns and the Chesapeake Bay; Recycling Grass Clippings; Soil Information & Testing; Compost Bin Purchasing Information; Composting with Pallets; the County's Composting Program; Easy Composting, which offers basic strategies for making compost "happen"; Getting Started: Composting Basics; and Ten Compost Myths.

Regarding Website usage: during the late Spring and Summer months (May, June, and July), when advertising for grasscycling was most concentrated, Website hits doubled and even quadrupled over the previous months and for the same period in 1998. From an average of 6,000-7,000 hits previously, Website usage jumped to 11,621, 24,389, and 19,989 for those three

months, respectively. Hits went back to normal levels at the end of the advertising period. This is a clear reflection of the value both of advertising and promoting the Website as an information source, and also of the cost effectiveness of delivering substantial amounts of information to large audiences for almost no cost and with a minimum of staff time (save Website management).

HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAMS

Household Hazardous Waste Collection- Two HHW events were conducted in October; one at the Transfer Station which served 432 patrons, and the other at Bethesda NIH which served 366 patrons.

There were also 55 walk-ins, citizens who came to the Transfer Station in October with household hazardous waste to drop off.

Small Quantity Generator (Ecowise) Program- One Ecowise event was held. Eight companies attended.

AIR PERMITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Resource Recovery Facility- CEM Tracking of RRF Operations – In October, the Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (CEM) indicated that Unit #1 and Unit #3 have been operating more or less continuously. During installation and maintenance activity of the modified lime slurry system on October 2, the CEM indicated higher values of Hydrogen Chloride (HCl) and Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) at about 8:20 AM. The one-hour average HCl value at 8 AM exceeded the 25-ppm permit level. However, the three-hour average value of SO₂ did not exceed the permit level. Within 30 minutes, the operators discovered that the lime slurry stream, which neutralizes acid gases in the scrubber, bypassed the lime injection system and took corrective measures that brought the SO₂ and HCl readings to normal levels by 9 AM. This incident was communicated to the Maryland Department of Environment. On October 7, at approximately, 7 AM, the CEM sensor for SO₂ malfunctioned giving spurious readings. The equipment was repaired in about 4 hours and the readings came to normal values. On October 26, Unit #2 also was brought online to handle the additional waste in the pit. All three units will continue to operate until the completion of stack tests in November. There were no equipment malfunctions in October other than those discussed above that affected plant operations or stack emissions. The 1999 annual stack emissions tests for the RRF are scheduled from November 1 through November 10. A new contractor, TESTAR, Inc. will conduct the tests.

Oaks Landfill Energy Recovery Facility - The Leachate Thermal Treatment System (LTTS) was under maintenance during the entire month of October. The steel shroud in the unit was removed in October and insulation was partially redone. Bentech expects to complete the reinsulation of the unit by the end of October and plans to spray ceramic coating during the first

week of November. The unit is expected to be back on line by the middle of November. Since the start of operations of the facility in May 1999, a total of 458,157 gallons of leachate were evaporated over a four-month period ending on August 31, 1999. In response to a request from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the contractor requested the County for copies of the County's contracts with Browning Ferris Industries (BFI) that are related to the construction of the gas collection system from 1992 to 1994. These documents were sent to the Contractor on October 15, 1999. The contractor expects a response from the IRS by the end of December regarding the tax credits. At that stage, the contractor will be able to make a decision on the financial viability of investing for the electrical component of the project.

Yard Trim Composting Facility – The Consent Agreement is still with the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE). The Agency expects to finalize the document in October. The one-year evaluation program required by the Consent Agreement is continuing satisfactorily. The fifth wet sampling event was conducted during the early morning hours of Wednesday, October 20. The results indicate that the BOD5 and TSS levels are far below the Discharge Permit limits. The evaluation program is continuing during the fall season. This one-year evaluation program will conclude in June 2000 and DSWS plans to meet with MDE in August 2000 to discuss the results of the program.

Contractual Work – ENSR submitted the summer quarterly report on the YTCF evaluation program as required by the Consent Agreement, and is continuing work on the RRF air and non-air media tasks and epidemiological evaluation. ENSR received a response from the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) regarding the data request for the Dickerson area residents for the epidemiological evaluation. The following reports prepared by ENSR are available for distribution to the Facilities Implementation Group (FIG): 1. The Winter 1999 Water Quality Sampling Program conducted at the Montgomery County Yard Trim Composting Facility (YTCF), 2. Updated Dispersion and Deposition Modeling Analysis for the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility (RRF), as required by the Facilities Master Plan for Solid Waste Operations in the Dickerson Area. RAS Enterprises, the new contractor for meteorological services upgraded the software for windows 98.

RECYCLING

Public Outreach- Work continues on a comprehensive outreach item, in the form of a Year 2000 calendar. This calendar will provide broad-based information on recycling, waste reduction, buying recycled products, and specific collection schedule changes to single-family households, multi-family property managers, and the coordinators of business recycling programs throughout the County. Work continues on a recycling, waste reduction and buying recycled newsletter, to be distributed to community and business leaders. Work has been completed on a comprehensive outreach campaign on recycling. The campaign, including radio spots, TV spots, transit ads and print ads, kicks off on America Recycles Day, November 15. Focus group sessions will be conducted in November to look at ways to increase participation in the mixed paper recycling program.

The week of November 8-15 will be proclaimed America Recycles Week in Montgomery County. America Recycles Day events and activities are being planned: the open house at the recycling center on Sunday, November 14, the Recycle Right Contest during the week of November 8-15, to recognize residents, employees, and organizations that are recycling correctly, and other activities. Coordination with the other local jurisdictions throughout the state and the region continues.

The SORRT awareness campaign was kicked off on Labor Day, September 6. Response has been marked. Calls regarding business recycling and the SORRT Program have increased since the campaign began. The campaign includes a 30-second TV advertisement, two 60-second radio spots, transit advertisements and print advertisements.

Commercial Recycling and Waste Reduction - Site visits and on-site consultations continued to be provided during the month of October. On October 2, staff was invited and participated in a recycling event at Wheaton Plaza for the Hispanic community. Staff continued to work with the public school system to ensure a successful start up of its recycling program. Recycling start up kits were prepared and sent out to all of the public schools. Visits were made to schools to assist, get feed back and promote awareness of the importance of reinvigorating the recycling program. Invitations were sent out for the “Buy Recycled” seminar and the responses looked promising.

Multi-Family Recycling - Staff continued with the bin study and results are being analyzed. Staff sponsored and hosted several community events during the month of October. Staff investigated new and better method for reaching our multi family customers. Plans are to increase multi family recycling awareness through a vigorous advertisement campaign targeted specifically at multi-family customers. Staff plans to place advertisement with apartment shopper’s magazines. This is an area in which we can potentially reach the new multi-family customer at an early stage.

Mixed Paper Recycling - The mixed paper collection program in service area #8 (20,000 households in Olney) began in late September. Troubleshooting in Area #2 and #8, the only two areas receiving mixed paper collection curbside, has begun in earnest.

FACILITY ACTIVITIES

Yard Trim Compost Facility - Phase I of the pilot for tubgrinding of screening rejects is in progress but there was no site activity in October. Phase 1 allows for grinding of material from the 1998 batch (contains no storm debris). Phase 2, the grinding of the 1999 batch containing storm debris, requires additional approval from Sugarloaf Citizens Association before proceeding.

Grass arrived at the facility in higher than normal amounts for this time of year due to the excessive rain. Quick processing of material was top priority of the MES on-site staff in order to minimize odors.

Windrows irrigation (irrigated with pond water to increase moisture content and reduce the threat of fire) was performed during the month. Based on the increase in windrow moisture, irrigation will stop at the end of this month.

Bagging of Leafgro continues at the Transfer Station. In October, 27,400 bags were produced and 26,200 bags were sold.

In October, 4015 tons of grass (mixture of leaves and grass but predominately grass) was received for processing and 5054 cubic yards of Leafgro were sold.

Resource Recovery Facility- Deliveries to the Facility continue at a rate of more than 1,350 tons per day. Operations for the month consisted of two boilers for most of the month, with the third boiler brought on line during the last week in anticipation of the annual air emission testing to be conducted in early November. The units usually operated at 100% load for the entire month to control refuse pit levels. 41,031 tons of waste was processed at the Facility and 41,469 tons were delivered.

On October 26, during the restart of unit #2, a high water level was reported in the steam drum, causing the turbine to trip off line, sending the steam to the by-pass condenser. The turbine was immediately restarted and synchronized to the grid.

On October 27, unit #2 was taken off line to clear ash discharger plugs. The unit was down for approximately 12 hours and returned to service as soon as possible.

On October 31, PEPCO dispatched the Facility to a reduced load for approximately one hour, resulting in a loss of approximately 10 MWH and lost revenues of less than \$300.

The Facility sold 23,729 MWH during the month, for approximately \$700,000 in revenues.

CSX rail service continued to be good during the month. Additional meetings remain to be planned with CSX management to develop long-term resolutions to operating issues.

2,146 tons of yard material was delivered to the compost site by the rail system.

Approximately 3,122 tons of ash was shipped to the American Ash Recycling, Inc. facility in York, PA for recycling.

Mr. Steve Jenness, Ogden's Environmental Engineer for the Facility, was on site much of the month. There were no reportable air or water quality excursions during the month. During maintenance activities on October 2, a misalignment of quench water piping in the scrubber on unit #3 caused elevated HCl emission readings. Response to the elevated emissions was

immediate and in accordance with established protocol. The piping was corrected and the unit was operating normally approximately ½ hour after the initial elevated readings.

New CEM software (installed to complete the Y2K upgrades) has a problem with the reports generator. Data is being collected and stored properly in the system, but reading and printing the data from remote computers has been troublesome. The Division is getting data that comes directly from the system so monitoring the Facility operations continues without interruption. Ogden is working to resolve the errors as soon as possible.

The Division and Ogden initiated action to report emission data on the Division's web site in real time. The data should be on the Website within the next couple of months, barring any computer glitches.

The results of NPDES quarterly monitoring and potable water supply monitoring were reported to the appropriate agencies. All parameters were in compliance.

More than 100 people toured the Facility including visitors from Taiwan and other international locations; the Maryland legislature; and Montgomery College.

Materials Recovery Facility - Approximately 2,856 tons of old newspaper; 1,343 tons of commingled material; and 894 tons of mixed paper were received and processed at the Materials Recovery Facility in October 1999.

Electrical modifications continued through the month.

Construction continues, enabling increased paper storage and handling at the MRF. Presently, this consists of modifications to the former yard waste building to provide push walls and enclose the facility. Modifications to the MRF tipping floor are planned to start in December.

Oaks Landfill - The contractor for the Phase II closure construction, Barbella Environmental Technology, Inc., has seeded and stabilized 30 acres of recently installed geomembrane, geotextile and soil cap. Over 20 acres of geomembrane have been installed in two new subareas (subareas 4 and 5), and geocomposite and soil placement has begun in these areas. Barbella is approximately 70% complete with the Phase II work.

Cherry Hill Construction, the contractor for the Phase I closure construction (about 68 acres on the western side of the landfill), completed installing geomembrane and geocomposite in the first two subareas of Phase I (about 28 acres) and continues placing the soil layer over the geocomposite. Cherry Hill is approximately 35% done with the Phase I work.

SCS Field Services is investigating a methane migration problem identified on the northern side of the landfill. The gas migration problem may be associated with the current, partially capped configuration of the landfill that prevents full activation of new sections of the gas collection system. SCS made adjustments to the gas collection system and plans to install two new gas

monitoring wells in November. DEP is also collecting methane gas monitoring data and working with SCS Field Services on this issue.

Residential hook-ups to the new public waterline around the Oaks Landfill are complete.

Transfer Station - During October, Ogden Martin shipped via rail 40,319 tons of processible waste from the Transfer Station to the Resource Recovery Facility, this is 2,459 more tons than was shipped in October 1998.

Litter was collected along Shady Grove Road from Route 355 to the intersection with Muncaster Mill Road.

Whalen and Purdy continued construction of the Nonprocessable Waste facility along with some of the Master Plan improvements. The reinforced concrete work for the DOT Type Nonprocessable Waste facility is complete. The paving of the lower lot and the cut through road from the Public Unloading Facility to the Upper lot are also complete.

Invitation for bid has been issued for additional master plan improvements. These improvements will include the separation and expansion of the recycling drop-off area, new road construction and a yard waste load out area.

Site 2 Property Management - DFS is following maintenance schedules for the properties. The request to use the CIP funds for DFS to renovate the farmhouse through one of their contractors was approved by the County Executive and DFS is to perform the necessary work. Discussions with Red Wiggler Foundation (a non-profit organization assisting mentally challenged adults) continued. A work plan is to be initiated in November.

Out-of-County Haul

Brunswick County, Virginia - During the month of October, about 7,322 tons of ash residue and 3,208 tons of nonprocessable waste were transported to the County's dedicated disposal cell at the Brunswick Waste Management Facility, Inc. Landfill in Brunswick County, Virginia. 421 tons of dirt and rock were recycled at Clean Rock in Hagerstown, MD.

York, Pennsylvania - During the month of October, 3,122 tons of ash residue (back hauled by rail from the RRF) were shipped from the Transfer Station to American Ash Recycling in York, Pennsylvania to be recycled into aggregate.

Linden Farm Renovations - The project is substantially complete but some items remain to be completed. Remaining construction activities that are being managed by DFS are in progress.

Phase I of the plantings to screen the Compost Facility from the Linden Farm is complete. The County and Sugarloaf are working with a landscape design firm to complete design of Phase II this fall. A draft plan, sufficient for budgeting purposes, has been completed and items included in the budget submittal.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Important Telephone Numbers

General information on solid waste- 240/777-6400

Customer Service- 240/777-6410

Recycling hotline- 301/590-0046 (Hours of operation: Mon. - Fri., 1:00 - 4:00 PM)

Transfer Station- 301/840-2370

Materials Recovery Facility- 301/417-1447- Maryland Environmental Service

Resource Recovery Facility- 301/349-5685 County Office
301/916-3031 Ogden Martin Systems of Montgomery

Yard Trim Compost Facility- 301/428-8185

Internet for DSWS- www.dpwt.com, then click on Solid Waste Services

Note: All comments, questions, and suggestions on the contents of this report should be addressed to:

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SOLID WASTE FACTS IN A NUTSHELL

TOPIC OR FACILITY	
Current Recycling Rate in Montgomery County	35%
Recycling Goal by 2000	50%
New Recycling Programs Scheduled for FY 00	Implementation of Residential Mixed Paper Collection March 1999- Textile Recycling Pilot began
Resource Recovery Facility (RRF)	Guaranteed Capacity = 85% of 1800 tpd on an annual basis (558,450 tons/yr).
Yard Trim Composting Facility (DCF)	Operations Limited to Receipt of 77,000 tons/year under Sugarloaf Settlement Agreement. FY 98 tons received- 59,144
# Residences receiving trash collection by County contractors	82,450
# Residences receiving collection of recyclables in blue bins and yard waste collection	193,904
Term of out-of-county waste transportation and disposal contract with Brunswick Waste Management Facility, Inc.	June 19, 1997 through June 30, 2012 with an option for a five-year renewal. (Service started on October 20, 1997.)

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AAR	American Ash Recycling
APC	Air Pollution Control
BFI	Browning Ferris Industries
CEM	Continuous Emissions Monitoring
CIP	Capital Improvements Program
COG	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
CSX	Chesapeake Systems
DFS	Division of Facilities and Services
DSWS	Division of Solid Waste Services
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FIG	Facilities Implementation Group
HCFA	Health Care Waste
IRS	Internal Revenue Financing Administration
HHW	Household Hazardous Service
LTTS	Leachate Thermal Treatment System
MDE	Maryland Department of Environment
MES	Maryland Environmental Service
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
PEPCO	Potomac Electric Power Company
“Red Wiggler”	Handicap Adult Development Group
ROL	Reduced Operating Level
RRF	Resource Recovery Facility
SORRT	Smart Organizations Reduce and Recycle Tons
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
TPD	Tons Per Day
YTCF	Yard Trim Composting Facility